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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **FORMER INDIANA BUSINESSMAN SENTENCED FOR FRAUD**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that MAJID AZIZ, 41, Orange County, California, was sentenced to 33 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Sarah E. Barker following his guilty plea to mail fraud involving three sets of victims. This case was the result of a several month investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The FBI in Indianapolis was contacted by Allianz Life Insurance Company in October, 2004 regarding potential fraud perpetrated by one of its independent agents, Majid Aziz. Aziz lived in Indianapolis and was the owner of an independent insurance brokerage firm operating as Senior Benefit Alliance, which he registered in 1992. Aziz sold legitimate loan products of 8 different insurance companies such as supplemental health care policies and long term annuities. Aziz was then paid a commission from his sales. Between 2000 and 2003, Aziz took \$474,595

from three sets of current clients who had previously purchased loan products through his business. These three sets of victims were in their 70's and invested money with him for modest return rates. Aziz's stated motive was his addiction to gambling. Aziz admitted to having taken about \$250,000 the same way about 10 years ago. He was never prosecuted for that conduct, nor was it ever reported to law enforcement, and he repaid that money to those victims. FBI Special Agent in Charge Keith Lourdeau stated, "the FBI is committed to investigating allegations of fraud, particularly fraud perpetrated on the elderly."

According to Assistant United States Attorney Gayle L. Helart, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Barker also imposed 3 years supervised release following AZIZ's release from imprisonment. During the period of supervised release, AZIZ must participate in a 6 month residential or other intensive treatment facility upon his release from imprisonment, must attend Gamblers Anonymous, and must pay back restitution in the amount of \$464,460.

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